

Dublin Feb. 1-1862

Dear Mr May

As I have an opportunity of sending
you a letter by a friend of mine who has lived
many years in America & intends to go back
again tomorrow by one of the licensed boats from
Cork Harbour, I don't like to let the opportunity slip.
I have been indirectly informed that my letters in
the Standard don't give satisfaction. I am sorry
for it - but I cannot say that if I had to write them
again I would make them very different. In
the excited state of public opinion on your side of
the water, it would be a miracle if your way of
regarding passing events was the same as that which
takes who though substantially interested in many
ways, are not like you actors in the struggle. It is
natural that we should appear comparatively heartier
and indifferent because we cannot enter personally
as you do into every aspect of events which prevents
itself. I know that the cause of freedom & the real
happiness & welfare of the Free States are very dear
to me, as they are to many others whom I then
consider you look upon as very meddling friends
rather better than enemies in fact. J. Muller
McKean told me plainly some months since that
his friends could not bear to have your government

Robertson Vol. 1-1865

Learn the way

found fault with ^{about} however much he & they might
feel bound to do so at home. If we have a press
which talks in ignorance of facts & comes waders
of principle - so have you - & while a free press
exists this is inevitable & all reasonable people
will take this fact into account as a thing the
British ~~people~~ ^{nation} can no more influence than they
can the flow of the tides. We are not fairly
held responsible except for the acts of our government
and they have hitherto done nothing which they
could have helped doing - nothing which the people
would not have expected upon being done - nothing
which if the Free States had been in our position
you would not have done. In the present state
of your affairs the anti Slavery cause seems to have
sunk out of sight in the view of the national emergency.
I do not know any case of a whole people being so com-
pletely brought to a standstill for want of some able &
daring leader to step in & show the difficulty. And
yet such a man would prove the shipwreck
of a Republic backed by the mighty army he had
led to victory. Considering the want of a general
of commanding talents, & knowing as I do the remark-
able difficult character of Northern Virginia
soil, I don't wonder at the Mahommedan position of
affairs.

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 10th inst. in relation to the proposed amendment to the Constitution of the State of New York. I have the honor to inform you that the same has been referred to the Committee on the Constitution, and they are now considering the same. I have the honor to inform you that the same has been referred to the Committee on the Constitution, and they are now considering the same. I have the honor to inform you that the same has been referred to the Committee on the Constitution, and they are now considering the same.

It looks as if the whole nation were now (3)
paying the penalty of having put faith in the
Slaveholders as their rulers & legislators. What
could they look for but utter selfishness, felon-
ious treachery? And one of the most
melancholy circumstances is that the Free
States - appear to be still very far from perceiving
their mistake in this respect. The President,
his favorite counsel, & his generals still cling to
the idea of Slavery forming a part of the
Republican edifice - and so long as this is so
what can we look for but dissension, unscrupulous
rulers, national disgrace.

I forward with great anxiety the real Standard
containing Mrs Childs reply to Mrs Martineau.
However plainspoken your English correspondent
has been in addressing you it is certain that
no eminent English writer knows half so much
of your affairs, takes any thing like the same
interest in the Anti Slavery cause, or so consti-
tently wields a pen of remarkable ability
on the side of the Free States as she does. I will
be very anxious to hear from you if you have time
& leisure to tell us what you think of affairs.
And be sure to tell me how your son gets on who is
gone to the war.

Yours ever truly

Richd Webb

